

## Message Text

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17/51

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SY-05 A-01 OPR-02 OC-05

CCO-00 AID-05 /069 W

----- 085599

O 071220Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9746

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 9016

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA THRE LINE NINE)

FOLLOWING REPEAT MADRAS 0905 SENT ACTION NEW DELHI INFO  
CALCUTTA/BOMBAY. DTD 7 JUL 75

QUOTE:

MADRAS 0905

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IN

SUBJECT: VIEWS OF DMK LEADER ON CURRENT SITUATION

1. WE TALKED JULY 4 WITH MURASOLI MARAN, MIJN WHO IS EDITOR  
OF THE DMK ORGANS "MURASOLI" AND "RISING SUN", AND ALSO THE  
NEPHEW AND SON-IN-LAW OF CHIEF MINISTER KARUNANIDHI. FOLLOW-  
ING ARE HIS MAJOR COMMENTS.

2. HE BELIEVES THE EMERGENCY WILL BE PROLONGED. THE DMK FEELS  
THE SITUATION IS "HIGHLY FLUID" AND IS PREPARED FOR A LONG, DRAWN-  
OUT POLITICAL CRISIS IN WHICH REGIONAL STRAINS WILL BECOME MORE  
PROMINENT. AT LEAST FOR THE MOMENT, THE DMK MINISTRY  
PREFERS TO STAY IN POWER RATHER THAN CONFRONT THE CENTER AND GET  
DISMISSED. IT HAS THEREFORE BEEN MOVING WITH DELIBERATE CAUTION  
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DURING THE PAST WEEK AND FOLLOWING A CAREFUL POLICY OF SEPARAT-

ING THE ACTS OF THE MINISTRY FROM THE ACTS OF DMK PARTYMEN AS INDIVIDUALS. NEVERTHELESS, THE PARTY LEADERSHIP REALIZES THAT IT IS TAKING A RISK AND THAT MRS. GANDHI MAY DECIDE TO DISMISS THE KTAMIL NADU GOVERNMENT. KMARAN SAID HE PERSONALLY BELIEVES THE PM IS AT PRESENT TOO PREOCCUPIED WITH CONSOLIDATING HER POSITION AT THE CENTER TO TURN HER ATTENTION TO THE NON-CONGRESS GOVERNMENTS IN TAMIL NADU AND GUJARAT AND THAT SHE ALSO DOES NOT WANT TO RISK CREATING LAW AND ORDER PROBLEMS IN TAMIL NADU BY DISMISSING THE STATE GOVERNMENT). THE DMK GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE ITS "MODERATE" POSTURE AS LONG AS IT IS IN POWER AND WILL BE PARTICULARLY CAREFUL NOT TO ALLOW ANY BREAKDOWN OF LAW AND ORDER WHICH MIGHT PROVIDE THE PRIME MINISTER AN EXCUSE TO IMPOSE PRESIDENT'S RULE. BUT IF THE GOVERNMENT WERE TO BE DISMISSED, THE PARTY WOULD THEN BE FREE TO PURSUE A MORE AGGRESSIVE COURSE AND ORGANIZE STATEWIDE AGITATION AGAINST THE EMERGENCY AND MRS. GANDHI.

3. MARAN NOTED THAT MRS. GANDHI HAS STEPPED UP HER WOOING OF TAMIL NADU KONGRESS (O) LEADER KAMARAJ AND IS SENDING HER EMISSARY, MARAGATHAM CHANDRASEKHAR, FOR THE SECOND TIME IN A WEEK TO TRY TO GET HIS SUPPORT FOR HER EMERGENCY MEASURES. SHE HAS ALREADY ISOLATED KAMARAJ FOR THE NATIONAL CONGRESS (O) LEADERSHIP, AND, IF SHE GOT KAMARAJ ON HER SIDE, IT WOULD BE EASIER FOR HER TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST THE DMK. HOWEVER, IK THE DMK AND KAMARAJ SHOULD JOIN TO OPPOSE THE EMERGENCY, THE PRIME MINISTER "WILL NOT BE ABLE TO CONTROL THE SITUATION IN TAMIL NADU." AT PRESENT KAMARAJ IS BEING PULLED IN TWO DIRECTIONS, WITH SOME OF HIS FOLLOWERS URGING THAT HE TAKE A MORE CRITICAL STANCE ON MRS. GANDHI'S ACTIONS AND OTHERS ADVOCATING THAT HE EXERCISE RESTRAINT AND PLAY THE POSITIVE ROLE OF AN ELDER STATESMAN.

4. CHITTY BABU'S REPORTED STATEMENT THAT IF THE GOTN WERE DISMISSED, THE ASSEMBLY SHOULD DECLARE TAMIL NADU INDEPENDENT (MADRAS 872) WAS, ACCORDING TO MARAN, MISQUOTED IN ANNAI NADU, A CONGRESS (R) ORGAN, WHICH WAS THE ONLY PAPER CARRYING THE REPORT. MOREOVER, IF THE SENTIMENT ATTRIBUTED TO CHITTY BABU REPRESENTED SIGNIFICANT OPINION IN THE DMK, HIS NEWSPAPER WOULD HAVE REPORTED IT.

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5. MARAN BELIEVES MRS. GANDHI WILL DO ALMOST ANYTHING TO REMAIN IN POWER. HE DOES NOT EXPECT HER TO CONVENE PARLIAMENT IN JULY, BUT SAYS SHE WILL HAVE TO CONVENE IT WITHIN 60 DAYS OF THE PROCLAMATION OF THE EMERGENCY, OTHERWISE THE EMERGENCY WILL LAPSE. HE BELIEVES SHE WILL NOT DISSOLVE PARLIAMENT, AS SHE KNOWS SHE COULD NOT AGAIN GET THE KIND OF MAJORITY SHE GOT IN 1971.

EAVES  
UNQUOTE.  
SAXBE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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